

EXHIBIT 155

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**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K

- ☒ **ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015
- ☐ **TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**
For the transition period from _____ to _____
Commission file number: 001-36211

Noble Corporation plc

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

England and Wales (Registered Number 08354954)

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

98-0619597

(I.R.S. employer
identification number)

Devonshire House, 1 Mayfair Place, London, England, W1J 8AJ

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: +44 20 3300 2300

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class

Name of each exchange on which registered

Shares, Nominal Value \$0.01 per Share

New York Stock Exchange

Commission file number: 001-31306

Noble Corporation

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Cayman Islands

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

98-0366361

(I.R.S. employer
identification number)

Suite 3D Landmark Square, 64 Earth Close, P.O. Box 31327

George Town, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands KY1-1206

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (345) 938-0293

Securities registered pursuant to Sections 12(b) and 12(g) of the Act:

None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes ☒ No ☐

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes ☐ No ☒

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months, and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes ☒ No ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Website, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months. Yes ☒ No ☐

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K. ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Noble Corporation plc: Large accelerated filer ☒ Accelerated filer ☐ Non-accelerated filer ☐ Smaller reporting company ☐

Noble Corporation: Large accelerated filer ☐ Accelerated filer ☐ Non-accelerated filer ☒ Smaller reporting company ☐

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes ☐ No ☒

As of June 30, 2015, the aggregate market value of the registered shares of Noble Corporation plc held by non-affiliates of the registrant was \$3.7 billion based on the closing sale price as reported on the New York Stock Exchange.

Number of shares outstanding and trading at February 12, 2016: Noble Corporation plc – 243,202,568

Number of shares outstanding: Noble Corporation – 261,245,693

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The proxy statement for the 2016 annual general meeting of the shareholders of Noble Corporation plc will be incorporated by reference into Part III of this Form 10-K.

This Form 10-K is a combined annual report being filed separately by two registrants: Noble Corporation plc, a public limited company incorporated under the laws of England and Wales ("Noble-UK"), and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Noble Corporation, a Cayman Islands company ("Noble-Cayman"). Noble-Cayman meets the conditions set forth in General Instructions I(1) of Form 10-K and is therefore filing this Form 10-K with the reduced disclosure format contemplated by paragraphs (a) and (c) of General Instruction I(2) of Form 10-K.

NOBLE CORPORATION PLC AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOBLE CORPORATION AND SUBSIDIARIES
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(Unless otherwise indicated, dollar amounts in tables are in thousands, except per share data)

We have used a commercial agent in Brazil in connection with our Petróleo Brasileiro S.A. (“Petrobras”) drilling contracts. We understand that this agent has represented a number of different companies in Brazil over many years, including several offshore drilling contractors. In November 2015, this agent pled guilty in Brazil in connection with the award of a drilling contract to a competitor and implicated a Petrobras official as part of a wider investigation of Petrobras’ business practices. Following news reports relating to the agent’s involvement in the Brazil investigation in connection with his activities with other companies, we have been conducting a review of our relationship with the agent and with Petrobras. We are in contact with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, the Brazilian federal prosecutor’s office and the DOJ about this matter. We are cooperating with these agencies and they are aware of our internal review. To our knowledge, neither the agent, nor the government authorities investigating the matter, has alleged that the agent or Noble acted improperly in connection with our contracts with Petrobras.

We are from time to time a party to various lawsuits that are incidental to our operations in which the claimants seek an unspecified amount of monetary damages for personal injury, including injuries purportedly resulting from exposure to asbestos on drilling rigs and associated facilities. At December 31, 2015, there were 43 asbestos related lawsuits in which we are one of many defendants. These lawsuits have been filed in the United States in the states of Louisiana and Mississippi. We intend to vigorously defend against the litigation. We do not believe the ultimate resolution of these matters will have a material adverse effect on our financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

We are a defendant in certain claims and litigation arising out of operations in the ordinary course of business, the resolution of which, in the opinion of management, will not be material to our financial position, results of operations or cash flows. There is inherent risk in any litigation or dispute and no assurance can be given as to the outcome of these claims.

We operate in a number of countries throughout the world and our tax returns filed in those jurisdictions are subject to review and examination by tax authorities within those jurisdictions. We recognize uncertain tax positions that we believe have a greater than 50 percent likelihood of being sustained. We cannot predict or provide assurance as to the ultimate outcome of any existing or future assessments.

During 2014, the IRS began its examination of our tax reporting in the U.S. for the taxable years ended December 31, 2010 and 2011. We believe that we have accurately reported all amounts in our 2010 and 2011 tax returns. We believe the ultimate resolution of the IRS examination will not have a material adverse effect on our consolidated financial statements.

Under the TSA entered into at the time of the Spin-off, Noble and Paragon Offshore are each responsible for the taxes that relate to their respective business and provide a corresponding indemnity. In addition, in February 2016, we entered into an agreement in principle with Paragon Offshore (the “Agreement in Principle”) relating to tax matters in Mexico described below in exchange for a full and unconditional release of any claims by Paragon Offshore in connection with the Spin-off (including any claims that could be brought on behalf of its creditors).

Audit claims of approximately \$174 million attributable to income and other business taxes have been assessed against us in Mexico, as detailed below. Under our Agreement in Principle, we agreed to assume the administration of Paragon Offshore’s Mexican income and value-added taxes for the years 2005 through 2010 and for Paragon Offshore’s Mexican customs taxes through 2010, as well as the related bonding obligations and certain of the tax related liabilities. In addition, under the Agreement in Principle, we would (i) pay all of the ultimate resolved amount of Mexican income and value-added taxes related to Paragon Offshore’s business that were incurred through a Noble-retained entity, (ii) pay 50 percent of the ultimate resolved amount of Mexican income and value-added taxes related to Paragon Offshore’s business that were incurred through a Paragon Offshore-retained entity, (iii) pay 50 percent of the ultimate resolved amount of Mexican custom taxes related to Paragon Offshore’s business, and (iv) be required to post any tax appeal bond that may be required to challenge a final assessment. Tax assessments of approximately \$50 million for income and value-added taxes have been made against Noble entities in Mexico. Tax assessments for income and value-added taxes of approximately \$202 million have been made against Paragon Offshore entities in Mexico, of which approximately \$46 million relates to Noble’s business that operated through Paragon Offshore-retained entities in Mexico prior to the Spin-off. We will only be obligated to post a tax appeal bond in the event a final assessment is made by Mexican authorities. As of February 12, 2016, there have only been \$3 million in final assessments that have been bonded.

In January, 2015, Noble received an official notification of a ruling from the Second Chamber of the Supreme Court in Mexico. The ruling settled an ongoing dispute in Mexico relating to the classification of a Noble subsidiary’s business activity and the applicable rate of depreciation under the Mexican law applicable to the activities of that subsidiary. The ruling did not result in any additional tax liability to Noble. Additionally, the ruling is only applicable to the Noble subsidiary named in the ruling and, therefore,